

Remarks/Arguments:

In the Advisory Action of May 18, 2004, the Examiner directed Applicants to Mahapatra (US 4,886,538). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 10, and 20, as amended, are patentable over Mahapatra for the reasons set forth below. New claims 21 and 22 are similar to claims 1 and 20, but contain alternative features that have been deleted in claims 1 and 20, as requested by the Examiner.

Mahapatra discloses planar waveguide channels in which the refractive index varies oppositely of the channel geometry along the channel length, Abstract.

The present invention, as recited in amended claim 1 and new claim 21, contains a feature which is neither disclosed, nor suggested by the Mahapatra, namely:

...a cross section of the planar optical waveguide is substantially constant along a direction of light propagation.

The present invention, as recited in amended claim 20 and new claim 22, contains a feature which is neither disclosed, nor suggested by the Mahapatra, namely:

... the refractive index in a part of said material varies substantially periodically in a direction of light propagation and is substantially continuously monotone increasing or decreasing in a direction substantially perpendicular to said direction of light propagation.

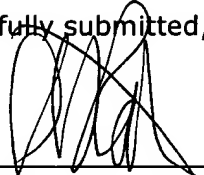
Based on the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 10, and 20, as amended, and new claims 21 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

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Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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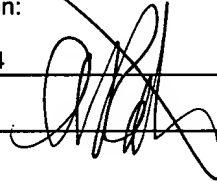
Dated: June 29, 2004

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